



## **OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL WUI/7A TASK FORCE**

Thursday, August 31, 2017  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Attendees:**

Spencer Meyer

Alese Achuckian

Crystal Sujeski

John Westfall

Greg Andersen

David Tyree

Kevin Reinertson

Bill Hendricks

Marcelo Hirschler

Don Oaks

Bob Raymer

David Castillo

Ryan Boykin

Foster McLean

Rea Swanson

John Woestman

Matt Vrazel

Dennis Richardson

Deedee Graham

Pete Munoa

Raul Merrich

Edith Hannigan

Karsten Vardas

Larry Dumm

John Simontacciti

Steve Quarles

Caryn Petty

Diane Arend

Dave Shew

Charlie Jourdain

Kevin Cheung

Rich Geary

Dwight Good

Chad Moxley

Donald DeVisser

Henry Morris

Brent Pickett

#### **I. Welcome and Review of Intent and Goals of Meeting**

#### **II. Code Change Proposals/Subgroups**

##### **A. Subgroup 1 – Opening Protection**

##### **i. Garage door**

1. Investigative measure proposed to discuss and implement garage door manufacturer gap protection.

##### **ii. Operable skylights**

1. Concern with them being left open during fire event.

2. Tempered glass vs fire glass.
3. Industry has capability of closing skylights via temperature, research to follow.
4. Much development in 1980s.
5. New production housing has reduced new construct.
  - a. Discussion re: required need to continue protection regardless of construction habit/trends.
- iii. Private company (name) unable to disperse information until late September
  1. Concern regarding proprietary issues within committee.
- iv. Move to further expand subgroup with co-chair addition (NAME)
- v. Focus on residential
  1. Discussion re: commercial exposure.
  2. Differentiation between code for residential and commercial, generalized code discussion not ideal.

## **B. Subgroup 2 – Accessory Structures**

- i. There is a hazard associated with things not attached to structures. Wind will send embers from accessory structures. Relevant hazard.
- ii. Document – “Wind Effects on Flame Spread and Ember Spotting Near a Structure.”
  1. Documents to be reviewed.
- iii. Current code addresses separation distances.
  1. Discussion proposed for increased distance and revision.
  2. Fence, outhouses, etc.
- iv. AHJs confused about how to regulate
  1. Kitchen, BBQs. Exterior walls. Roofs.
    - a. Discussion: all should have same requirements.
    - b. Chapter 15 addresses.
- v. Ongoing tests underway with paints, fences, structure aging, landscaping timbers.
  1. Discussion re: mulch requirements. Push toward non-water applications to stop runoff. Department of Water Resources. Reduce potable and landscape water. Will be meeting next in September 11, 2017 (Fresno) – width and depth of mulch. No fire service representation on this.
  2. This is not a 7A, it is T24, Part 11.

## **C. Subgroup 3 – Ignition Resistance**

- i. Group has not met.
- ii. Will discuss 707A.3, exception 1.
  1. Non-rated wood in WUI
- iii. Chairman will move to meet to discuss topic via phone.
- iv. Document pending re: decking (?).
- v. Discussion re: wall standards. E119. Test adoption. Request clarifying information for 108.
- vi. Discussion re: obsolete test methods (ASTM) and inability to attain results relevant to WUI. Dated. These results do not offer the protection needed.
  1. Is there data to support these statements? Testing results?
  2. CA defensible space (100’).
- vii. Do regulations need changes or proposals? Consensus or proposal will move it to SFM then to BSC that will require solid data for proposal(s) and justification.
- viii. Remove non-combustible materials (sp), ongoing discussion.
- ix. Discussion re: two requirements same.

1. No significant...
2. Not more than 12.5'...
- x. ASTM standards important, can these standards be enhanced with SFM support?
  1. It is a possibility.
  2. Discussion: ASTM provides test criteria, doesn't dictate code. CA.
  3. Justification required.
- xi. Proposed expansion to working group of materials make-up discussion beyond walls and decking.
  1. Discussion: What is an ignition resistant material? How is it defined? Beyond scope of Group 3.
    - a. Chairman reiterates that Group will meet to discuss.
    - b. Definition needed. Redundant requirements.
    - c. Committee consensus that this topic remains within Group 3.
    - d. Proposal to itemize during meeting.

#### **D. Subgroup 4 – Decking**

- i. Group has not met.
- ii. Similar issues as ignition resistance.
- iii. Document dispersed with SFM listing (?)
- iv. Are two subgroups required?
  1. Affirmed.

#### **E. Subgroup 5 – Heavy Timber**

- i. Group has not met.
- ii. Increased interest.
- iii. Laminated timber course attended.
- iv. Discussion re: heavy timber where cross-lam not appropriate.
- v. Ch 7 definition not consistent with 607 (?) in CBC re: dimensions.
  1. Original definition intentionally conflicts.
  2. "Use of this..."
  3. Intention of 4x4 in WUI? Was this in UBC codes?

### **III. New Ideas**

#### **A. Buildings in C (Camp) Occupancy**

- i. Notes "all buildings." Has created an issue. Large structures meeting 7A. Small "tent-like" or "tent" structure being built. No electricity. No windows.
- ii. Was it the intent of WUI task force to include these structures to meet 7A?
  1. Like Burning Man? No. Church camp, idea. Experience nature.
  2. Temporary. Seasonal. Insignificant structure.
- iii. ICC Ch 31 addresses tents but not in WUI.
  1. NFPA 701.
  2. Present legislation addressing certain tent/structure that provides relief from 7A.
  3. Intent of 7A was to address structures.
  4. "Camping cabin" in different statute under different legislation.
- iv. Whittier Fire discussion
  1. Hard facilities. IA was campsite with blocked egress. Resulted in formal evacuation.
  2. Case Study will be addressed at CFPI in March 2018.

- 3. Sheltered in dining hall. Was successful but 7A would have been better.
- v. Question: C Occ bill, last discussed 2008. Introduced long before.
- vi. Code needs clarification(s).
  - 1. Proposed exemption of this structure only on Camp.
    - a. What is the justification?
      - i. Nature experience.
      - ii. System in place for fire event evacuation. Assembly building. Harden these structures. Safe refuge.
      - iii. Assures that while exemption exists, the rest of the buildings shall meet 7A.
  - 2. Proposal for AHJ to make systematic evacuation of occupants.
- vii. Question: Are permits required for these tents?
  - 1. AHJ addressing. FD may be involved for clearance.
  - 2. Local regulations do not apply, it's a SFM regulation.
- viii. Question: Do we need to maintain this occupancy?
  - 1. Yes, it's statutorily mandated.
- ix. Political concern, while some buildings comply, if these tent facilities that have never been permitted as made to do so, attention will be drawn.
  - 1. May risk 7A entirely.
- x. Canvas treated tents exist, see: military.
  - 1. Requirements on material already in-place.
- xi. Need for sub-committee? No.

## **B. Any other issues/topics**

- i. Individuals needed for DWR.
  - 1. To speak on wood mulch flammability.
  - 2. Call-in to meeting is a possibility.
- ii. Roofing Assembly, underlayman with air space beneath. Air gap, bird-stop.
  - 1. Cap sheet beneath. Still being done old-fashioned way with paper and battens. Potential for roof failure (San Diego, 2003). Clarification needed.
  - 2. Proposal to add topic to "Opening Protection" Group 1.
  - 3. Discussion re: cool roof provisions. Compliance optional.
- iii. Energy Commission new provisions for high-performance attics (Residential, R-3).
  - 1. If you don't do it, other energy provision required. CEC.
  - 2. In addition to insulation, now must put R8 exterior or R13 immediate underside, there may be an air-space.
  - 3. Unknown fire safety implications.
  - 4. Energy.ca.gov. "Efficiency" link. 2019 Building Energy Standards. Pre-Rulemaking.
  - 5. Draft expected in October 2017.
  - 6. Discussion re: foam insulation. Dangerous gaseous exposure (off-gassing) and fire behavior.
- iv. Debris beneath solar panels.
  - 1. Addressed via lab testing. Simple screening and increased heat was voiding warranties. Prior SFM denied. Without new data, progression unlikely.
- v. There is a new supplement of 7A, new information recently approved via Interim Code Package submission.
  - 1. Information will be sent to Task Force, forthcoming. Including pass/fail.
  - 2. Will be sent in Word format for access editing.
- vi. Question: tents on property within WUI area?

1. Title 19.
2. It is not appropriate for what we are doing here. Not CBC.
3. Large event tents require permitting. Exhibitions, large-scale.
4. Local permitting required.
5. IFC differs from CA.
6. Move to not include this topic in this Task Force.
7. Discussion of NFPA 701 test methods.

**C. Future meeting**

**Monday, October 23, 2017 @ 1300-1600, OSFM Sacramento Office.**

**NOTE: Proposals will be due by March 2018.**